PEACE/WILLISTON
FISH & WILDLIFE
COMPENSATION
PROGRAM

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Mount Frank Roy Stone's Sheep Transplant, March 1993

M. D. Wood
November 1995

PWFWCP Report No. 47

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The Peace/Williston Fish & Wildlife Compensation Program is a cooperative venture of BC Hydro and the provincial fish and wildlife management agencies, supported by funding from BC Hydro. The Program was established to enhance and protect fish and wildlife resources affected by the construction of the W.A.C. Bennett and Peace Canyon dams on the Peace River, and the subsequent creation of the Williston and Dinosaur Reservoirs.

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Website: *www.bchydro.bc.ca/environment/initiatives/pwcp/*

This report has been approved by the Peace/Williston Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program Fish Technical Committee.

Citation: M. D. Wood. November 1995. Mount Frank Roy Stone's sheep transplant, March 1993. Peace/Williston Fish and Wildlife Compensation Program, Report No. 47. 2pp plus appendices.

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INTRODUCTION

Over the winters of 1990 and 1991 a total of 24 Stone's sheep were transplanted from the north side of the Peace Arm to the Mt Frank Roy/Mt Monteith area on the south side of the Peace Arm (Davidson, 1990; Backmeyer, 1991). To supplement the previous transplants, a third transplant of sheep was conducted in March 1993.

METHODS

Sheep were captured by herding into drive nets with a Bell 206 Jet Ranger helicopter. Biologists waiting on the ground removed the sheep from the nets, hobbled and blind-folded them. Three sheep were fitted with Lotek LMRT-3 radio-collars. The sheep were transported to the release site in the passenger and cargo compartments of a Twin Star helicopter. One ewe was tranquilized with 1/4 cc of Rompin to minimize stress.

The capture crew included Mari Wood and Fraser Corbould (Peace/Williston Compensation Program), Rob Woods and John Surgenor (B.C. Environment, Fort St. John), volunteers Rod Backmeyer, Brad Culling and Diane Culling of Diversified Consulting, Fort St. John, pilots Wade Ross and Bob Bachelor of Northern Mountain Helicopters, Fort St. John, and additional volunteers. (Table 1, Map 1).

RESULTS

A total of six Stone's sheep captured on Rainbow Rocks were successfully transplanted to Mt. Monteith on March 18/19, 1993 (Table 1, Maps 1 & 2). Five ewes and one lamb were captured on March 18: three ewes (two with radio-collars) and the lamb were successfully transplanted; while two younger ewes died during transport from capture myopathy. On March 19, an additional ewe and lamb were released on Mt. Monteith. The ewe was radio-collared and had been administered 1/4 cc of Rompin to minimize stress. The sheep were released at the same location on Mt. Monteith as sheep from the 1991 transplant (Map 2).

On March 24, a third attempt to capture additional sheep from the Rainbow Rocks area was unsuccessful as sheep could not be located in the area.

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE 93/94 FISCAL

1. Continue monthly monitoring of radio-collared sheep to determine movements, seasonal use of habitats and the success of the transplanted herd.

2. Conduct total-count surveys of the Mt. Frank Roy/Mt. Monteith area in June (post-lambing period) and in winter to investigate whether low lamb production or high lamb mortality is responsible for the low juvenile recruitment observed in 1992 (Wood, 1993a,b).

Table 1. Stone's sheep capture data (March 18/19, 1993).

DAT E	RADIO-COLLAR FREQUENCY	SEX	AGE	COMMENTS
Mar. 18		F	6	died in transport (lamb's mother?)
Mar. 18	149.010	F	11-12	fissures/cracks in horns
Mar. 18	148.998	F	15	smaller horns than 149.010
Mar. 18		F	6-7	died in transport
Mar. 18		F	lamb	
Mar. 18		F	3	some ticks
Mar. 19	149.030	F	6	
Mar. 19		F	lamb	green eartag #94, some ticks

REFERENCES CITED

Backmeyer, R.J. 1991. Mt. Frank Roy stone's sheep transplant March 1991. Status Report. Unpublished. Peace/Williston Compensation Wildlife Program. 8pp.

Davidson, Peter. 1990. Mt. Frank Roy Stone's Sheep Transplant March 1990. Status Report. Unpublished. Peace/Williston Compensation Wildlife Program. 10pp.

Wood, Mari D. 1992. South Peace Arm Stone's Sheep Inventory, June 1992. Status Report. Unpublished. Peace/Williston Compensation Wildlife Program. 5pp.

Wood, Mari D. 1993. South Peace Arm Stone's Sheep Inventory, December 1992. Status Report. Unpublished. Peace/Williston Compensation Wildlife Program. 5pp.

MAP 1

Stone's Sheep Capture Location

94 B/2 scale 1:50,000

MAP 2

Stone's Sheep Transplant Location

93 0/16 and 93 0/9 scale 1:50,000